

MAY 2, 1976

# THE PRIMARY PICTURE

## INTRO:

AMERICA'S PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY CONTESTS STEP UP IN NUMBER AND IMPORTANCE THIS WEEK WITH DEMOCRATIC HOPEFUL JIMMY CARTER AND REPUBLICAN CHALLENGER RONALD REAGAN HOPING TO BENEFIT FROM EXPECTEDLY IMPRESSIVE VICTORIES ON SATURDAY IN THE STATE OF TEXAS. VOA'S EDWARD CONLEY TAKES A LOOK AT THE RACES FROM THE DEMOCRATIC AND REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATIONS.

## TEXT:

THERE'LL BE PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARIES ON TUESDAY IN THE STATES OF INDIANA, ALABAMA AND GEORGIA AND IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA -- THE NATION'S CAPITAL. AT STAKE WILL BE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTY-SEVEN NATIONAL CONVENTION DELEGATES TO DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES, ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FOUR TO THE REPUBLICANS. BUT PERHAPS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THEY COULD INDICATE WHETHER THE RACE FOR THE DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION IS ALL BUT OVER AND WHETHER THE REPUBLICAN CONTEST IS JUST REALLY ABOUT TO BEGIN.

THOSE ASSUMPTIONS ARE BASED ON THE IMPRESSIVE PRIMARY VICTORIES OF DEMOCRATIC FRONT RUNNER JIMMY CARTER AND REPUBLICAN PARTY CHALLENGER RONALD REAGAN DURING THE PAST WEEK. CARTER'S UPSET VICTORY IN THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA FORCED HIS CHIEF COMPETITOR FOR THE NOMINATION -- SENATOR HENRY JACKSON -- TO END HIS ACTIVE CAMPAIGNING AND THE SPILL-OVER FROM THAT TRIUMPH ALLOWED MISTER CARTER TO COME TO TEXAS AND WITH ONLY TWO DAYS OF IN-STATE CAMPAIGNING DEMOLISH A STRONGLY ORGANIZED EFFORT BY TEXAS SENATOR LLOYD BENSON.

MISTER CARTER WON ALMOST ALL OF THE STATE'S NINETY-EIGHT DELEGATES TO THE JULY NOMINATING CONVENTION.

REPUBLICAN RONALD REAGAN'S WIN OVER PRESIDENT FORD IN TEXAS WAS JUST AS DEVASTATING. HE TOOK ALL NINETY-SIX REPUBLICAN CONVENTION DELEGATES. HIS ATTACKS ON WHAT MISTER REAGAN CLAIMS ARE WEAK FOREIGN POLICIES OF THE FORD ADMINISTRATION WERE EXPECTED TO BRING HIM VICTORY IN CONSERVATIVE-MINDED TEXAS BUT NOT TO THE EXTENT THAT THEY DID.

IT WAS A MUCH NEEDED WIN FOR THE FORMER CALIFORNIA GOVERNOR WHO UNTIL SATURDAY COULD CLAIM ONLY ONE PRIMARY VICTORY OVER PRESIDENT FORD. THE REAGAN CAMPAIGN STRATEGY, ACCORDING TO HIS AIDES, IS TO PILE UP SUPPORT IN SOUTHERN AND WESTERN STATES WHERE MOST OF THE NATION'S TWENTY REMAINING PRIMARIES WILL BE HELD. HIS CONSERVATIVE POLICIES COULD BRING HIM VICTORIES IN THE STATES OF ALABAMA, AND GEORGIA ON TUESDAY BUT IN THE WAKE OF SATURDAY'S TEXAS REPUBLICAN PRIMARY RETURNS, MOST ANALYSTS WILL BE WATCHING THE CONTEST BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND MISTER REAGAN IN THE STATE OF INDIANA WHERE THE PRESIDENT IS THOUGHT TO HAVE A SLIGHT EDGE IN POPULARITY.

THE QUESTION IS -- WILL THE MOMENTUM OF HIS HUGE TEXAS WIN WORK IN INDIANA FOR REPUBLICAN REAGAN AS IT DID IN TEXAS FOR DEMOCRAT CARTER. THE TEXAS PRIMARY KEPT RONALD REAGAN IN THE RACE FOR THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION. A WIN IN INDIANA WOULD BOOST HIS CAMPAIGN CONSIDERABLY. BOTH HE AND PRESIDENT FORD KNOW IT AND BOTH HE AND PRESIDENT FORD ARE NOW ACTIVELY CAMPAIGNING THERE AS INDIANA BECOMES THE LATEST PIVOTAL STATE IN AMERICA'S PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY SEASON.